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"Then shall his father and mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of the CITY, and unto the gate of his place; and they shall say unto the elders of his City, this our son is a GLUTTON and a DRUNKARD. And all the men of his City shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear and fear."—*Deuteronomy, chap. 21, verses 19, 20.*

CITY GLUTTONY.

TO THE LIVERYMEN OF LONDON.

On the discoveries made by MR. HUNT relative to the misapplication of the Money belonging to the Citizens of London in general.

Barn-Elm Farm, 9th May, 1828.

BROTHER LIVERYMEN,

THOUGH several important public matters press themselves forward upon me; though the *national medal to the Duke of Clarence*, subscribed for by such a delightful set of most sincere and disinterested admirers of this *illustrious* naval chieftain; though all the circumstances attending this pretty affair invite my attention so pressing: though the statues to CANNING, the famous author of the scheme for crippling Turkey and for giving a new Constitution to Portugal; though this fellow's bombast of just about a twelvemonth ago, when he sent off the guards to Portugal with bits of barrel in their caps: though these statues demand attention, with a voice hardly to be resisted: though, the determination of the ministers to persevere in the law of banishing small notes from circulation; though this demands particular attention; and though it must have it, even in this present Register; though the Russians and the French are mani-

festly preparing to drive us for ever from the Levant and even out of the Mediterranean, at the very moment when there are found literary parasites in abundance to extol to the skies those persons who have the management of our affairs in their hands: though each of these subjects would demand all the space I have to dispose of; still, so crying are the abuses in the City, of which I am an inhabitant, and to which, therefore, I belong, that I must put aside for the present other things, in order to discharge an imperious duty towards myself and towards my fellow-citizens of London.

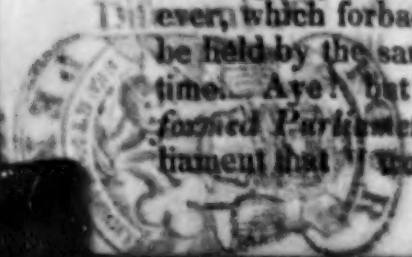
When you, the Livery of London, had the good sense to appoint Mr. Hunt one of the auditors of City accounts, I expressed my expectation that valuable disclosures would be made. The most of other persons expected the same; for, it was pretty well known that he would not consider the office to be a sinecure, like that of the auditorship of "*His Majesty's Exchequer*," of which office, let me digress a minute, to remind the old ones of you of what they had forgotten, and to inform the young ones of what they probably never have heard. The object of the office of Auditor of the Exchequer is to examine and check the accounts of the Treasury, consisting of a first Lord and of several other Lords. Among other duties of that of the auditor, is that of signing *Exchequer Bills*. Now, then, hear a pretty story. LORD GRENVILLE, that same LORD GRENVILLE who has just published a most stupid, impudent, and basely insolent pamphlet, which I have answered under the title of *NOBLE Nonsense*, which I sell for price twopence, or eighteen pence a dozen; this LORD Grenville, who has received, for his services, more than two hundred thousand pounds of our money within these last forty years; this LORD Grenville has been for about thirty years, or perhaps more, Auditor of the Exchequer, with a salary of above *four thousand pounds a year!*

About twenty years ago, one ASTLETT, who was a Cashier or something in the Bank, and who had charge of a good portion of Exchequer Bills, made free a little with them; and so very free did he make, that the Bank prosecuted him for the felony, and he was convicted and condemned to die, and the people expected, of course, to see one great bank-fellow swing at last! Not so, however! His neck was destined to be saved from the rope. It was found out, that the Auditor of the Exchequer *had not signed* the Exchequer Bills, but that they had been *signed by a Clerk*; and that, therefore, they were not, in fact, legally Exchequer Bills! It was very strange, but so it was, that this saved the neck of ASTLETT; yet, if it was not felony that he was guilty of, upon what ground was he transported? Thus the thing ended, however, with regard to ASTLETT. But, to prevent the like occurrences in future, you would expect, of course, that the Auditor himself would be strictly enjoined to *sign future Exchequer Bills with his own hand*; or, at the least, to give up his four thousand pounds a year: neither took place, he still kept receiving the four thousand pounds a year, and, (hear it envying-surrounding nations and admiring world,) the Parliament actually passed a law to enable this Auditor of the Exchequer to have the Exchequer Bills signed by a Clerk, or by any one that he chose to appoint!

In 1806, this same GRENVILLE became First Lord of the Treasury in the place of PITT, who had just then died; and, as it was contrary to common sense, as well as to the law, that he should continue to be auditor of the accounts of the Treasury after he had himself become head of the Treasury, everybody expected, of course, that some other person would have been appointed Auditor of the Exchequer. Everybody was deceived, however, not reflecting to what an extent a GRENVILLE was capable of going. There was the law, however, which forbade these two offices to be held by the same person at the same time. Aye! but there was an *unreformed Parliament*; there was the Parliament that "*worked so well*," ready to

pass a new law and to set the old law aside; and, to show that there is not the toss up of a farthing of difference between the two parties, this new law was passed, as soon as the WHIGS got into power; and, (hear it, you stupid adherents of this faction) the bill was brought in by Fox himself, in person! So that here was this LORD GRENVILLE First Lord of the Treasury, having the now Marquis of Lansdowne for his Chancellor of the Exchequer, and here was this same LORD GRENVILLE auditor or checker of his own accounts. If that is not a proof that this government ought to be the "envy of surrounding nations and the admiration of the world" the devil is in it; and that devil will confound, without all doubt, the Portuguese and the Spaniards, for not liking to have constitutions like ours; nice loan-making constitutions; constitutions of *checks* and balances; constitutions, that create poor-rates and church-rates, instead of making the parsons maintain the poor and repair the churches, as is the case in those dark and priest-ridden countries Portugal and Spain; and that was the case in this country during the "dark ages of popery and slavery," as they are called on our famous monument on Fish-street-hill, popery and slavery meaning the maintenance of the indigent and the building and repairing of churches without church or poor rates.

I now come back to our own affairs, which seem to have been conducted, and to be still conducted, upon the true principles of the "*march of mind*" which goes on so rapidly in these enlightened Protestant days. I shall first insert here a letter, which Mr. HUNT has addressed to you, and which most of you have probably read in the daily papers; at least in the MORNING HERALD, the Scotch editor of the MORNING CHRONICLE having taken care to omit such insertion, because I suppose the letter contained nothing whereon to found an argument to induce us Liverymen to prevent our wives from breeding, the increase of children being the only evil which that second-sighted Scotchman can discover to exist in this country. The MORNING HERALD has, upon this



occasion, done its duty to that public amongst which it circulates to a greater extent, as I hear, than any other paper in London.

TO THE

LIVERYMEN, FREEMEN, AND INHABITANT HOUSEHOLDERS OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I was elected Auditor of the City Accounts by the unanimous voice of the Livery of London, in Common Hall assembled, on Midsummer-day last, I promised to repay the confidence reposed in me by an active and assiduous discharge of the important duties attached to the office. However, I soon learned that by one of the rules of the Court of Common Council, by my not being a member of that Court, I should be prohibited from having access to such books, papers, and documents, as would enable me satisfactorily to perform my duty to those by whom I was appointed; I therefore, on St. Thomas's Day last, appealed to the public-spirited freemen of the ward of *Farringdon-without*, offering myself as a candidate anxious to become one of the sixteen Common Councilmen annually elected for that ward, avowedly for the purpose of being thereby placed in a situation where I could move for the production of all such city documents as would assist me in the accomplishment of the all-important duties of that office, to which I had been (though unsolicited) so honourably elected by the unanimous suffrages of the Livery of London. It will be recollected that when I appeared before the ward-mote held in St. Sepulchre's church on that occasion, and stated that this, and this only, was my object in wishing to be one of their representatives, I was assailed in the most vulgar manner by some of the old Common Councilmen, who were again candidates for these situations, who declared that my statement was false, that it was a *lie*, and all sorts of opprobrious epithets were vociferated from one to the other of this nice little

gang of our City guardians. Even the Alderman of the Ward descended to join this cabal by also giving the *lie* to my statement, although in rather more measured terms, or rather, in the Parliamentary slang, as follows—" *I must say Mr. Hunt has asserted that which has no foundation in truth.*" In fact, they one and all denied that there was any such regulation or rule as that of which I complained. But when I produced a copy of the 47th resolution of the said Common Council, as a damning proof of the correctness of my statement and the falsehood of their contradictions, they were all silent, with the exception of one gentleman—" Mr. Figgy," or a person of some such name—who stood forward and broadly asserted "that since I had been appointed Auditor of the City Accounts I had applied to the Town Clerk, who had informed me that I should have free access to all books and papers; that when I retired from his office I was very much mortified and chagrined, because I found that nothing would be withheld from me;" in fact, the whole of them, including the Alderman, strived to excel each other in endeavouring to convince their hearers that the immaculate body of which they were a worthy sample was so very *conscientious*, and so *scrupulously impartial* and *disinterested* in managing our City affairs, and so far were they from wishing to withhold the accounts from the Auditors, that they wished the whole world could be an eye-witness of their most secret transactions; and, " *to set the matter at rest for ever,*" and as an answer to all my assertions, the very worthy Alderman very triumphantly concluded by informing them "that all the City affairs must be honestly and fairly managed, because the accounts, forsooth, were annually laid before *Parliament*; and, as an answer to all my calumnies about *jobs*, Mr. Holme Sumner had declared the City accounts were *beautifully kept*," &c.

Now, Gentlemen, although this sort of tactic answered the purpose for the moment, yet it did not prevent nearly 400 most respectable freemen of the ward from giving me their votes, without one

single personal application on my part. As an act of justice to these gentlemen, as well as to the Livery, by whom I was elected as one of the Auditors of the City accounts, under an especial *Act of Parliament*, it is that I now appear before you, for the purpose of drawing your attention to the *progress* of my labours, and to claim your assistance in the *prosecution* of them. The Auditors (myself and three others) have met at various times, and we have gone through the additions of the multifarious items of receipts and expenditure, which we have found minutely correct, even to a fraction; and we have compared each receipt and disbursement with the entries in the Chamberlain's book, and we have, also, found these perfectly correct; and we agree with Mr. Holme Sumner, that these accounts, as far as Mr. Chamberlain is concerned, are "*beautifully kept*;" BUT, when we came to the more important discharge of our duty to our fellow-citizens—when we began to investigate and endeavoured to ascertain whether the different *large sums* voted for each particular purpose had been faithfully appropriated to such purpose, or whether they had been applied at all, or were still in the hands of those who had obtained such sums from the Chamberlain, we met in the onset a decided *check*, as follows:—the first was a sum which was voted, and appeared upon the warrant to have been paid, and to have been received to pay certain expenses; tacked to this warrant and receipt there was a regular account, showing how this sum had been expended. So far so good! Next came three warrants in succession, as follow:—one for 250*l.*; another 250*l.*; and a third for 200*l.*; making together 700*l.*; received by Mr. F. Temple, Hall-keeper, for the use of the "*Committee for letting City Lands*." It was in vain we looked for some account to ascertain how this sum had been expended, or whether it had been expended at all; "*IT WAS ALL A BLANK*." We sent for Mr. Temple, who informed us that the whole of this 700*l.* had been appropriated by him for the use of the said Committee, and that he had kept a regular account of such expenditure;

but, upon being requested to produce this account for our inspection, he hesitated, and wished to consult the said Committee, which was then sitting. The following letter, addressed to him by the Auditors, and his answer will best speak for themselves.

(COPY)

Audit Room, Guildhall.

TO MR. FREDERICK TEMPLE.

Sir,—It appears by three separate warrants, dated December 1825, January 1826, and October 1826, that you have received *seven hundred pounds* of the Chamberlain of London, to pay certain expenses incurred by the Committee for letting City Lands. We, the auditors, request you to produce to us such vouchers and accounts as are in your possession, showing how such sums have been appropriated by you.

(Signed)

H. HUNT,
R. W. HALL,
P. T. SKIPPER,
SAMUEL ALLEN,
Auditors.

April 22, 1828.

TO THE AUDITORS OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S ACCOUNTS.

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your request for the production of the accounts of the expenses of the Committee of City Lands, I beg to inform you, that as I did not feel authorised to comply with your request, without the permission of the above Committee, I stated your application to them; and as the Committee have directed me *not* to produce the accounts, I feel it my duty most respectfully to decline complying with your request.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

FREDERICK TEMPLE.

Guildhall, April 22, 1828.

You have here, Gentlemen, a pretty fair estimate, by the above specimen, how the affairs of the City of London have been managed and conducted! I am told that the only course to pursue is, if I am dissatisfied with this proceeding, to appeal to the Court of Common Council *by petition*. My answer is, I shall in the first instance do no such thing. I know of no power, I bow to no authority, I appeal to no Court, but that by which, and from whom, I received my appointment. *I appeal to the Liverymen of London*, by whom I was delegated to watch over their rights and their interests, as well as those of the citizens at large, including every inhabitant

householder who contributes towards those taxes and rates which are imposed upon them by that very Court, a Committee of which, I complain, has set the first example of defiance to all law and justice, by refusing to permit their officer to lay before the Auditors an account of the expenditure of large sums of the City monies voted to *themselves*. Gentlemen, I have taken this transaction as a mere specimen of the whole. This Committee for letting City Lands, I see, has received, amongst other things, for that one year, *first*, a grant of 700*l.* which Mr. Hall-keeper does not deny having been expended in guzzling and gormandizing; and next, 150*l.* for a *summer excursion*! I cannot trust myself to reason or comment upon the extravagance of this and all the other Committees when I relate this one fact—that in this year it appears, by the accounts laid before the Auditors, the sum of “THREE THOUSAND AND SEVENTY POUNDS” has been paid by the Chamberlain for the *USE* of the several Committees alone; and that in the same year the pitiful sum of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS only has been paid to be distributed amongst the poor widows of freemen on St. Thomas’s Day. I cannot trust myself here to name the enormous amount of the whole money paid for *EATING AND DRINKING* during this year; I must leave that to be summed up on Michaelmas Day, when I will endeavour to lay before my fellow citizens a concise statement of the whole affair, as far as I have the means of coming at the documents; but this I will state, that, as far as I have hitherto had the power to investigate, it amounts even to more than I had ever contemplated; and I have no hesitation in declaring that I am strengthened in the belief that if there were no *JOBS*, and particularly no *JOBS* in letting City Lands; and that if the Common Council were restrained from voting the City money into their *own pockets*, and into the pockets of their relations and immediate connections; and if the City property was made the most of, and the citizens fairly dealt by, that a *very large portion of the money* now levied upon the citizens and inha-

bitant householders for rates and improvements would be paid out of these funds for those purposes, as it was expressly stipulated they should be in the Royal Grants and Charters; which clearly defined that these estates were given to the Corporation of the City of London *IN TRUST*, that the rents and profits arising therefrom should be applied for the improvement of the City, and for the benefit of the citizens at large.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient humble servant,
H. HUNT.

36, Stamford-street, April 26.

I have not time at present to go into all the remarks which this letter suggests to me; nor indeed does the letter itself contain an account of one half of the enormities that we shall hear of before this year be out. But, Brother *LIVERYMEN*, what will the envying-surrounding nations think, when they are told, that, out of so many Committees, one single Committee actually take down their throats seven times as much, in the course of the year, as is bestowed on all the widows of all the poor freemen, in the course of that year; and what will those envying nations think, when they are further informed, that, in order to restore health to these eaters and drinkers of more than seven hundred pounds, the *City*, that is to say, we freemen and liverymen, have had to pay them a *HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS* more, for a *SUMMER EXCURSION*; that is to say, for them to spend in junketting and in guzzling and gormandizing about the country; that is to say, fifty pounds more, for this one Committee’s summer pleasure; than were given in the same year, to *all* the poor freemens’ widows within this immense City, though a number of those widows, have scarcely a sufficiency of bread to put in their mouths.

As to the refusal of the Committee, to suffer the Auditors to see the account of the manner in which the money had been expended, it was natural enough; and if we suffer them to retain their power, we shall deserve the like in future, and

we have deserved all that they have done to us hitherto. I am informed that, amongst the City disbursements, there is the payment of an annual pension to a "DAME EAMER," the *widow of an Alderman*, of **TWO HUNDRED POUNDS a YEAR**, while the whole of the poor freemen's widows get one hundred pounds amongst them; that is to say, perhaps, a shilling, eighteenpence, or half-a-crown a piece! Why, Gentlemen, if we suffer this to go on, if we, who really have the power of doing away with these shameful things; if we suffer these things to go on, we are not only unworthy of the name of "freemen;" but we are guilty of a most scandalous breach of the solemn oath, that we take, when we are admitted to the Livery; we betray our trust; we are guilty of the most foul treason towards the inhabitants of the City in general; we are cruel neighbours, we are bad parents or children; we are corrupt in action; and, in short, we are a set of wretches, that ought to be made to labour, to stuff the maws of these gormandizers during the winter, and to pay for their pleasures in jaunting about during the summer. I am told, and I believe the fact, that the whole of the guzzlings and gormandizings amount, during the year, to a sum exceeding *twelve thousand pounds*, while one hundred pounds are given to all the poor freemen's widows; and I verily believe, that, if a just and judicious administration of the affairs of the City were to take place, there would be no need of one single farthing of tax upon us, even for the maintenance of the poor, or the repair of the churches.

But never shall we get redress; never ought we to have redress; and we ought to be lashed bodily, besides having the money taken out of our pockets, and the bread out of our mouths, if we do not in future so exercise our right of voting, as to ensure a Common Council that will make a proper use of our money. I am compelled to break off from this subject at present, but will return to it quickly; and, in the mean while, let me remind you, that the time for **CHOOSING SHERIFFS** is approaching. It is for us to

choose Sheriffs; and a most important office they hold. Midsummer-day is the day of election; and no notice is required, because we all know the day well. That which took place the other day in the choosing of **WILDE**, the attorney, ought to put us on the alert. Such a manœuvre never was heard of before: it was as clearly a smuggling transaction, as any that ever took place on the coast of Sussex. It was, it appears, lawful; but no man had the impudence to say that it was just or decent. We cannot change the members of the Council till next St. Thomas's-day; but we can have Sheriffs of a new sort on next Midsummer-day; that is to say, on the 21st of June. I do trust that you will be prepared to do your duty; and, as far as I am concerned, I am resolved to do mine. Attornies are, generally speaking, as good as other men; but that they ought not to be Sheriffs, or Under-Sheriffs, is a maxim as old as the laws of England themselves. This law is shamefully evaded in the counties as to the Under-Sheriffs; but never yet was there an attorney impudent enough, so lost to all sense of decency, as to offer himself for a High Sheriff. Mr. **WILDE** may say that he is not now an attorney, and this may possibly be the fact; but he is generally looked upon as an attorney; and he ought to have declared that he was not one, before he took upon him the office. This election was the snuggest thing that I recollect to have heard of: nothing more snug ever took place at Old Sarum, or Gatton: a little pack seems to have got together by whispers. There was Mr. **FAVELL** ready to propose, and Mr. **ROUTH** ready to second; and the thing was all over as quickly and as quietly as if the "free and independent electors of **GATTON**" had been sitting over a pot of beer, choosing a *Member*.

Gentlemen, men are not slaves, they are not insulted, pillaged, trodden down into the earth, without some fault of their own. He who prefers life with slavery, to the chance of losing life for the purpose of obtaining liberty, deserves to be a slave: such a man was not born to live in a state of freedom: he was made, as

the dumb animals are, for the use or the sport of superiors. But if this be the case with regard to men in general, what do we deserve, who need risk neither life nor any thing else, in order to rescue ourselves from the all-devouring maws of these gormandizers? We have the power completely in our hands of putting an end to all the evils at once. No money can be voted but by the Common Council, and we have the choosing of the Common Council. Half a dozen men in that Common Council; only half a dozen of such men as we may at any time pick out, would put an end to the whole of the abuses immediately; and we should not see thousands of pounds laid out on statues to PITT, while hundreds of freemen, and their families, are in want of a bit of bread.

Our first business, however, is to look well to the next election of Sheriffs, and by doing our duty resolutely then, to convince the gormandizers, that we mean to do it, strictly and constantly, for the future. Let us, my friends, give them something to think about, during their "summer's excursion." They will really want something to brace them this summer, if we give them a good sweating on Midsummer-day. I dare say, that Mr. HUNT's letter may have tended to save us something, by taking away their appetites; though, according to the old saying, "God may turn their hearts more easily, perhaps, than the devil could turn their stomachs." I have long been writing about *tax-eaters*, who have very unreasonable appetites; but I have now got to do with *alms-eaters*, who seem to have appetites still more unreasonable. Trusting, Gentlemen, that you will be ready to do your duty on every future occasion, and that you will resolutely persevere until this scandalous gormandizing be abated, I am,

Your brother Liveryman,

And most obedient servant,

WM. COBBETT.

QUESTION SET AT REST."

THAT human happiness is of short duration, though a very old maxim, was

never more fully verified than in my experience of the last few weeks. When I heard, or rather saw, that BIG O.'s friend, SIR GLORY, alias *Westminster's Pride*, had pledged himself to take the matter in hand, I exclaimed, "Now, thanks be unto God, the question will be set at rest for ever." Alas! SIR GLORY has been silent ever since; but just as I was beginning to despair, MR. SLANEY informed me that the question *was already* set at rest. Scarcely had I had time to put up to the Honourable House thanks-giving for this, when another honourable man suggested that "*something* ought to be settled with regard to the currency." "What, the devil," exclaimed I, sticking my fingers into my hair, and screwing my features up almost into a crying position, "is the question not settled yet?" The next day, however, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose name is GOULBURN, or GOLDBOURNE, or some such thing, and that "FINE YOUNG MAN" (of only forty-five years of age) MR. PEEL, Doctor, now Bishop Coplestone's pupil, snatched me out of the "slough of despond," by a most positive assurance that the "question" was settled, and was never to be disturbed again, happen what would. Now I was made happy again, and not being one of those selfish mortals, who may be called "*sots*" in morals, and who wish to keep all good things to themselves, I will here insert that passage of the "*reports*," which was the cause of my happiness. There are two passages, indeed, one under date of the 28th of April, and the other under date of the 29th of April. The first contains certain questions of SIR JAMES GRAHAM, the answers of the above-mentioned GOULBURN, or GOLDBOURNE, and a very entertaining speech of a Mr. CURTEIS, who, I understand, is a man of considerable *weight*, and belongs to a very *weighty* family. The second extract or passage is taken from the "*reports*" of the same respectable body, and made part of a speech of the "*fine young man*" above-mentioned, pupil of DOCTOR COPLESTONE. I beg the readers of the Register to mark well the words of this GOULBURN, and of the "*fine young man*."

"REPORTH" of 28th of April.

Sir J. GRAHAM—"Sir, I hope I may be allowed to ask certain other questions of His Majesty's Ministers, for there are other matters besides protection to the agriculturists on which I think it of much importance that the intentions of Government should be known. I particularly allude to those which relate to the currency of the country. On this subject I am anxious to ask three questions, which I hope the right hon. gentleman opposite (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) will have no objection to answer. Considering the advanced state of the session, and that early in the next year a very important alteration is to take place in the currency, I hope the right hon. gentleman will allow me to ask on what grounds we now stand with respect to the proposed alteration? Whether it is the intention of Government to propose any ulterior measure,—or whether they are fixed in the determination to adhere to the plan already laid down of preventing, after the 5th of April next, the issuing, re-issuing, or negotiating of notes in England for less than 5*l*.? My next question is, whether it is the intention of Government to allow the circulation of notes of less than 5*l*. in Scotland and Ireland; and, if that question should be answered in the affirmative, if it is their intention to take any step, and if any, what step, to prevent the circulation of the small notes on this side of the Scottish border? My last question is, whether it is the intention of Government to propose any alteration in that part of the Bank Act which prevents banking companies consisting of more than six partners, at any distance less than 65 miles from London, from issuing notes or bills of exchange for less than 50*l*. payable in London? The Right Hon. Gentleman is of course aware that it is the operation of that clause in the Act which prevents the formation of joint stock bank companies of more than six partners within that distance."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.—"Sir, I admit the great importance of the subjects to which the Hon. Baronet's questions refer, and have no objection to answer them. To the first I say, that *His Majesty's Government see no reason to depart from the policy laid down in 1826 with respect to the currency, or to that part of it which consists in the circulation of 1*l*. notes; and it is their fixed determination to adhere to the law as it was then enacted, and not to allow a greater circulation of small notes in England than was then contemplated. As to the smaller circulation of Scotland and Ireland, His Majesty's Government are not prepared to take the same course, but to prevent any advantage being taken of the circulation of small notes in Scotland, it is my intention at an early period to introduce a measure, for the purpose of hindering the circulation of those small notes within the limits of the united kingdoms. As to the third question, whether it is the intention of Government to alter the law affect-*

ing banking, so as to allow joint stock companies of more than six partners, within 65 miles of London, to issue bills of exchange for less than 50*l*., payable in London, the Hon. Baronet is aware that that is a matter which does not rest with the Government alone, but must be the subject of negotiation with the Bank of England."

Sir M. W. RIDLEY.—"The Right Hon. gentleman says, that his intended measure is to prevent the circulation of the small notes within the limits of the united kingdoms. He must"—

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.—"I beg pardon, and am obliged to the Hon. Baronet for the correction,—I meant,—to prevent the circulation of those notes in England."

The petition was then brought up and read.

On the question that it do lie on the table,

Mr. CURTEIS wished to call to the recollection of a Right Hon. Gentleman opposite, what he had said some time ago on this subject,—that it was intended to allow a silver circulation concurrently with the gold one. That would, no doubt, go a great way to cure the evil of a diminished circulation of small notes. As to the Scotch notes, it appeared that though there were only 45 Members from that country in the House, and 16 in the Upper House, they acted in concert, and on all occasions carried their point when any measure was introduced affecting their country. The moment any measure which was considered in any way opposed to the interests of Scotland was brought forward, every man, woman, and child in that country raised their voices against it, and they were almost always successful. However, as far as the Scotch notes went, he thought they were safe.

"REPORTH" of 29th April.

The Noble Lord had attributed much of the difficulty of the subject to the existing laws respecting the issue of one pound notes by country bankers. He (Mr. Peel) should take the present opportunity of stating his entire conviction and confidence, that the question was, whether Government should not make a *resolute and determined effort to have a metallic circulation as the basis of the general circulation of the country. If the present opportunity were suffered to escape, if advantages were not taken of the present favourable circumstances of the country, he was convinced that an equally propitious opportunity was not to be expected. The state of the country was never so favourable for the settlement of the question. If any over-ruling interest compelled Government to depart from its determination—and in a postponement of the measure he could never acquiesce—he should abandon the hope of seeing effected what he considered the prosperity of the country to depend upon—a general metallic circulation. Without this, there could be no security against any extraordinary contingency that*

might arise. In the event of an unfavourable harvest, if country bankers were allowed to issue small notes, though they might be convertible into gold, the effect would ultimately be to drive all gold from circulation, and in times of pressure it would be impossible for any company, however splendid in wealth, to meet the contingency.

Here, then, readers of the Register, we have the solemn pledge of the Ministers that they will "*hold to the law*" as Burdett's humbug Committee used to write on the streaming banners that were borne before him in his parliamentary reform processions. If they do stand to these pledges, they shall have my support, at any rate, whatever that may be, notwithstanding the efforts that have been making to drive them from their laudable purpose. It is pretty evident, that a desperate conspiracy is forming against the Ministers on this occasion. A Petition has been sent already from Newcastle; another Petition has been agreed to to the same effect at Sheffield; and others are getting up in all quarters. I copy from the BRIGHTON GUARDIAN the following notice of a meeting even at DEVIZES, the central market town of Wiltshire, and one of the greatest corn markets in England.

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES, April 30, 1828.

Pursuant to a Requisition from several respectable Inhabitants of this Borough, I hereby appoint a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at the TOWN-HALL, on TUESDAY next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of Petitioning Parliament to *Repeal the Act which limits the Circulation of One Pound Notes to the fifth of April, 1829.*

WM. EVERETT, Mayor.

This NOTICE was, it seems, sent forth in the shape of a hand-bill; and indeed one of the Bills has been sent to me by a correspondent since I saw a copy of it in the BRIGHTON GUARDIAN. There can be no doubt, that these things are the joint work of the RAG ROOKS and the BULL FROGS, and a pretty assortment of devils they make. The Rooks are voracious enough; but, if they will take a friend's advice they will keep out of the way of the *Bull Frogs*, for they, if they once get their beaks into their mouths, will suck them down, claws, feathers and all. For the present these

two parties appear to have joined against the poor ministers; and, if they make a *push*, backed by the Swiss whom they may happen to pick up I know where, the Ministers will find, that though the hero of Waterloo be at their head, they will have no triumphal arches to erect at any rate. Buonaparte's *Curassiers* were fools to these fellows; mere piping chickens; and that the Ministers will find.

The county of Huntingdon has also met, and agreed to a Petition, with a copy of which Petition I have been favoured. It purports to be the Petition of the owners and occupiers of land, and of the merchants and traders within the county of Huntingdon; and, as it is, I suppose, a pretty fair specimen of the whole string that is preparing, and upon which, the ground for the battle is to be laid, I insert it here, being convinced that I shall hereafter have to refer to it, as a document of great importance, silly as the creatures may be by whom it is signed, those creatures amounting however, to pretty nearly three hundred in number, having amongst them several Magistrates, and *five or six parsons*. It is, in fact, an expression of the wishes of the ash-stick gentlemen, the fire-shovel gentlemen, the rag rooks, the bull froggery, and the short-sighted fools of the tradesmen of the country from one end to the other; with this preface I insert the Petition of the county of Huntingdon.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Owners and Occupiers of Land, and of the Merchants and Traders within the County of Huntingdon,

Sheweth,

That your Petitioners are aware, that by an Act of Parliament passed two years ago, the period for the circulation of any promissory notes to Bearer under the value of Five Pounds, will expire on the 5th of April, 1829.

That a considerable portion of the circulating medium in this county being in one pound notes, a great contraction of the currency will thereby ensue; the effect of which your Petitioners are firmly convinced, will be still further to depress the agricultural, and materially to injure and embarrass, the mercantile and trading interest of the county.

That your Petitioners have, from experience, been convinced of the inconvenience and injury resulting from the suppression of this species of currency by a temporary suspension of such issue on the part of the Bankers of this county; and who were only induced to re-issue their withdrawn notes, *at the urgent solicitation of many of your Petitioners.*

That so long as the paper money is convertible into gold on demand, your Petitioners see nothing to apprehend, on the score of an over-issue of one pound notes; and they are fully convinced that, a circulation of small notes affords both facility and advantage to every species of business.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable house will be pleased to take into due consideration the premises here set forth, with a view to a repeal of the Act of Parliament which limits the circulation of one pound notes to the 5th of April, 1829.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

There can be no doubt that there is a most extensive conspiracy formed upon this occasion; the petitions will come pouring in from all parts, I dare say; the Rag Rooks are the principal agents in the business, secretly pushed on, or are encouraged by the Jolterheads of the order of the *ash stick*, and openly abetted by the BULL FROGS and the FIRE SHOVELS. A conspiracy it is, at once as stupid and as foul as ever was formed in this world. They ask of the Ministers nothing short of this: to cover themselves with everlasting disgrace and infamy; to expose the country, first, to the contempt and ridicule of the other nations of the world; next, to expose it to internal convulsion, for the profit principally of the petitioning parties; and, lastly, in case of war, to expose it to internal uproar and confusion, produced at any time by any enemy that may choose to employ forgers for the purpose. BUONAPARTE was several times urged to employ this mode of hostility, and the vain vagabond always refused to do it; for which, were I a Frenchman, I should say, that he deserved ten thousand "hereditary" cancers, if he could have had them. The vain traitor having allied himself to the "great families," as Burdett used to call them, hated nobody so much as the English Reformers, and he by no means wished to see the government reduced to a state, that would com-

pel it to listen to its claims. The Bourbons may, perhaps, have the same feeling, but may not be able to act upon it. But there is one possible enemy, who is a good distance off, to be sure, but who, at the same time, thinks little of distances, or any other impediments, who would, in case of war, we still having a paper money system, blow up that system in a year. I KNOW THAT THEY WOULD DO IT; and if I were a minister, and there were to be war with America, and if I did not do my utmost to put down the paper system, I should deserve to be executed as a traitor. That "fine young man," Mr. PEEL, uttered one truth, at any rate, in this last speech; namely, that the country could never be SAFE without a general circulation of real money; and if one pound notes be suffered to exist at all, there can be no general circulation. It is the very first duty of the Ministers to maintain the existence of the government of which they form a part; and as long as one pound notes exist, even to their present extent, there can be no safety, there can be nothing worthy of the name of security, for the peace of the country, even for a day.

What *may* be done by an enemy in case of war, there is practical proof going on at this time in France. I have been told, and I believe the fact, that there have been recently issued and paid at the Bank at Paris, *forgeries to the amount of more than half a million sterling*, executed with a precision and likeness "*épouvantable*," as the French papers call it; that is to say, a likeness truly horrible. I dare say that these notes have been made in England, where there is no law to prevent it, to say nothing about the example (as fully recorded in Paper against Gold) given to the fabricators. If these notes could be made in England, why not forge English notes in France, and especially if done by order of the government, as was done here, in the case of the *assignats*? The *assignats* would have come to nothing in time; but there is no doubt that the English forgeries hastened their death. The putting down of the *assignats* could not cause commotion in France, for all

was commotion before; but a dozen or two of bales of forged notes poured into England, would produce universal confusion.

It is therefore the bounden duty of the Ministers, to "*hold to the law.*" Such fellows as these Rag Rooks and Bull Frogs of Huntingdonshire, have no characters at stake in this case; they are not pledged to carry the law into effect, but the Ministers are pledged, and were pledged in the most solemn manner. HUSKISSON said that the "worthless rags" had brought us within forty-eight hours of barter; PEEL said that the danger had all arisen from not adhering to his Bill; WELLINGTON gave his assent, as a Cabinet Minister, to the new Bill. In short, eternal political perdition must fall upon these men, if they become the instruments of the repealing of that Bill: they must oppose such repeal, if any one else should bring it forward; and they must quit their places if the repeal pass, or, as they are remembered, the idea of the most crouching baseness will be associated with their names.

And what do the paper-money conspirators think to accomplish by forcing the Ministers to abandon the Bill? Do they imagine that they can put out the paper again, so as to cause prices to rise, and yet not to produce a panic? If they do suppose this, they are now still more stupid than they ever were before; and if they do not suppose it, what is the use of the repeal of the Bill, even in their own view of the matter?

If I were the Duke, I should, I dare say, have a dialogue with the Rooks and Bull-frogs, in somewhat the following words:—

DUKE. (I mean myself; God forbid I should take the liberty to put words into the mouth of the "Hero of Waterloo") Good Rook, what do you want this Bill repealed FOR?

ROOK. Why, may it please your Grace, small paper-money is so convenient for the carrying on of the agriculture and commerce of the country. The farmers would not be able to carry on their business; would not be able to pay their men on Saturday night, without our small notes.

BULL FROG. No, that we should not;

we must give a fellow five pounds at a time, though we might not owe him one pound for a month's work.

DUKE. One pound for a month, farmer! that is rather little, is it not?

BULL FROG. No, it is a plenty.

DUKE. But, farmer, would not a sovereign, now, be quite as convenient as a small piece of very thin paper?

BULL FROG. Yes, if we could *get them*, but it is devilish difficult to get a sight of them in our country, I can tell your Grace.

DUKE. Difficult! Why, you have nothing to do, but just to step to your friend Rook here, to ask him for five sovereigns for one of your five-pound notes.

BULL FROG (scratching his head). Why, as a body may say, friend Rook has always been very *accommodating* to us all; but

ROOK. But what! (Looking devilish black at BULL FROG.)

BULL FROG. What a passionate man you be; I was going to tell his Grace, that I saw a whole bushel measure full of sovereigns at your bank at the time of panic, or at least, there *were* some at the *top of the bushel*: what there might be at the *bottom* of the bushel

ROOK. (Looking furiously at him.) What do you mean! What do you mean, I say! You are an ungrateful . . .

DUKE. Come, come: let me have no fighting in my presence. I beat a parley, and insist upon a truce as long as you are here, at any rate.

ROOK. May it please your Grace, he is the most ungrateful scound

DUKE. I command a truce: if you disobey, I shall consider you both in the light of enemies, and I leave you to guess at the consequences. But, if you, Mr. Rook be displeased at this worthy and liberal person here merely using a *but*, after a statement of an abundance of sovereigns at all times ready in your house, I am to suppose, of course, that you always have sovereigns to give in exchange for your paper; and, that being the case, how can it possibly be that any inconvenience could be felt for an abolition of the small paper money?

ROOK. (Working his fingers and thumbs together.) Why . . . Why . . .

Why, and please your Grace, the sovereigns are heavier, and the farmers in our parts, especially the young ones, wear their small clothes very tight, and cannot bear to have bumps upon their thighs; and, moreover, money would become more scarce, and we could not discount so *liberally* as we do

DUKE. Stop; *more scarce*, did you say?

ROOK. I mean, that if the small paper money were taken away, there would be less money for people to go to market with; and,

BULL FROG. Aye, and we should get nothing for our corn.

DUKE. How could this possibly be, if you, Mr. Rook, have no paper out, which you are not, if called upon, able to pay in gold? If you have not the gold wherewith to take up your paper, then you are, in fact, insolvent, or, you are, at the least, receiving an interest for the use of that which is worth nothing, and which costs you nothing.

ROOK. (Looking very queer.) But, may it please your Grace, I have got estates worth a great deal more than as many sovereigns as my paper money represents.

DUKE. You, however, receive the *rents* of those estates, and interest upon your paper besides.

BULL FROG. (aside) Ah the d—d cunning rogue; I never thought of that before! This Duke is a clever fellow, at other things besides fighting.

ROOK. Yes, yes. . . . a . . . b . . . but, may it please your Grace, we Rooks have great expenses; and very great losses. Why, now, (whispers) here is this very BULL FROG here, that has renewed his bill three and forty times; and

DUKE. Say no more! To pay you interest forty-three times on the same bit of paper; that is quite enough, Mr. Rook, as proof of your liberality.

ROOK. Why, one can't see a fellow creature in distress without wishing to help him. Oh! it makes one's heart ache to see the distress that we Rooks see every day of our lives.

DUKE. I dare say it must be very painful to you; forty-three renewals upon one bit of paper! To a person of

your susceptibility it must be living in continual affliction.

ROOK. It is, indeed, may it please your grace: and I see your grace understands these matters exceedingly well; I have always heard of your grace's great tenderness, and I told my LADY Rook before I came from home, that I was sure that you would feel for us.

DUKE. Indeed I do feel for you, and feel disposed to rid you of this unprofitable pain.

ROOK. I thank your grace, most kindly; but, I am used to it now, and really I should not know what to do with myself, if I had not these poor people to assist, and thus gratify my charitable disposition.

DUKE. Say no more: I am a man of "*decision*," as SIR JOHN SEBRIGHT says: we soldiers never allow our orders to be disputed: you can get sovereigns to supply the place of your one-pound notes; or you cannot. If you can, taking away the notes will not lessen the quantity of the currency; if you cannot, you are a cheat, and ought to be strung up by the legs as a terror to all other rooks.

ROOK. But I beseech your Grace to

DUKE. March! (looking at Rook's bundle of papers on the table). And take off your baggage with you.

I dare say that this is pretty nearly the substance of what will pass between the parties before it be over. If, however, petitions come tumbling in from all parts of the country, there will be all the Scotch interest and all the Scotch impudence into the bargain; there will be the anxious wish of every man amongst the farmers, the traders, manufacturers, and indeed the landowners, in favour of the petitions. A very great majority of the parsons will be of the same side. Their interest, truly considered, is on the other side; but they are long-nosed; they smell mischief in gold: somehow or other they have arrived at the conclusion that gold is bad for them; so that if there be any body in Parliament to make a push, the Ministers will assuredly be beaten. Beaten they must be, if what is called the voice of the community is to have

its course. Let them be fervent in prayer, that no man may make a push; for if the Bill be repealed and they keep their places, their names will be associated with every thing that is mean, cowardly, selfish, and despicable. What they propose to do is a thing that ought to be done by all means. When the Bill was passed, I presented a petition to the House of Commons, expressing my gratitude to the House for having passed it. I did, indeed, suggest that it was necessary to do something else besides enforcing this Bill, I am to suppose that something else, or something better will be done; but, at any rate, I approve of their present resolution. Thus far I approve of their conduct, with regard to this matter. Let the Rooks and the BULL-FROGS perish in heaps over the land.

PAPER AGAINST GOLD.

I HAVE at last fulfilled my long made promise in republishing this, as I may fairly call it, celebrated work. It is now in a nice compact little volume, price 5s. very nicely put up in boards. Let the reader be pleased to look at Letters four, five, and six, and then say what he thinks of the Greek scholar GRENVILLE, who is verily the most bare-faced plagiarist that ever put pen to paper. Let the dirty Scotch scribblers look at those letters, which were written eighteen years ago, and then leave the filthy bronze, to talk of the *discovery* of their DOCTOR HAMILTON. Let that "fine young man" Peel, read letter twenty-five, and then ask his tutor DOCTOR COPLESTONE, how the devil they both came to talk of cash payments as long as that letter was in existence. Let, in short, any Englishman, who wishes to know the true history of England's ruin, read this book. It is merely a republication, except that I have now prefixed a *dedication* to the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, which I think proper to insert here.

DEDICATION

TO THE

DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

MY LORD DUKE,

You, who are now First Lord of the Treasury, ought to understand the prin-

ciples relating to *money*, that great instrument in the carrying on of human affairs; and, as it is my opinion, founded on various reasons, and particularly on that suggested by your recent speech on the Corn-Laws, that you do not understand those principles, I present this book to you as a teacher in this branch of knowledge, now so necessary to enable you to form a correct estimate of the nature and magnitude of the difficulties, with which you find yourself surrounded.

In order to convince you that the book demands your attention, a bare statement of the following circumstances, out of which it arose, ought to be sufficient. For seven years previous to 1810, I had contended, and, indeed, I had been repeatedly *proving*, that the paper-money was *depreciated*, and that it must, in the end, produce a convulsion in the country, unless prevented by a *diminution of the Debt*, and a *return to payments in gold*; always considering the latter as impossible without the former. On account of these opinions, I had to undergo the almost incessant abuse of the base press of London; and, indeed, of the whole country; and, which was a more serious matter, I had to undergo the consequences of the wrath of the people in power, including that of the far greater part of the Members of the two Houses of Parliament. At last, however, a portion of the Parliament came to make the assertion, that a *depreciation* in the value of the paper-money had actually taken place; and, finally, a Committee of the people who had got into the Commons' House, was appointed to *inquire* into the matter.

This Committee, which ought to have been called the *Paper-Committee*, was called the *Bullion-Committee*, having for its Chairman one HORNER, a Scotch lawyer. After immense volumes of "*evidence*" taken down and published at the public expense, this Committee reported to the House, that the bank-notes were *depreciated*, and that, in order to prevent future fatal consequences, a law ought to be passed to compel the Bank to pay in gold at the end of two years from that time. The Ministry contended, that the bank notes were not

depreciated, and that the notes could, at any time, be paid in gold, but that, *during war*, the proposed measure was *inexpedient*.

I contended, that both sides were totally ignorant on the subject; and that the bank notes, without a great reduction of the interest of the debt, and of all other out-goings, *never could be paid in gold*, without plunging the country into ruin. To prove this opinion to be correct, and to show that I understood more of the matter than both sides of the House put together, I wrote and published this book, with an avowed intention, too, of having it to produce, when time should have verified its doctrines, and when the sufferings of the nation should have disposed it to listen to truth and reason.

The time is come, the doctrines have been verified, the sufferings have taken place; and, therefore, *here is the book*. The scoffings, the scornings, the abuse, the reviling, the horrible calumnies and the base persecutions which this book and other efforts of a similar kind brought upon me, and the briefest notice of each instance of which would fill fifty volumes more bulky than this, are all amply avenged by the joy that I feel at that which *I now behold*, and which can no longer be hidden even from the blindest and most besotted of the people.

— These men in power, seldom behind-hand in the career of contumely, arrogance, and insolence, seemed to adopt it as a maxim, that their main business was to take care to do nothing that the nation should be able to trace to my advice, on which maxim they appear to have proceeded from that day to this. I, on my part, resolved to maintain the right of mind to a superiority over matter, have constantly been repeating my advice, and keeping the past as well as the present, steadily before the eyes of the nation; and, thus has the struggle been continued for nearly twenty years. These men in power, the very proper and adequate representatives of an aristocracy, with some few exceptions, the most haughty, the most supercilious, the most conceited, and, at the same time, the most empty and mean that the world ever saw, seemed to read and to study all that I wrote upon this subject, in

order that they might be able to do precisely that which I recommended not to be done, and that they might shun, as a sailor does the rocks, every thing which I had advised them to do; while I, in order to *secure ample vengeance on them*, took care to be incessantly recommending *the only measures that could save the country from ruin!* This was an odd way of seeking *revenge*: and, whoever is convinced that this has really been the case, will look upon the present state of things as the natural and appropriate result.

What are the *deserts* of these men, it is, or rather, it will be, for the *nation* to say; but, nothing can be more notorious than the following facts: namely, that, in 1810, I *proved* to these men (in this work which I now present to you), that, if they ever attempted to return to gold-payments without first reducing the interest of the Debt, they would ruin the country; that, early in 1818, TIERNEY, a member of parliament, who has since been Master of the Mint, recommended to them a gradual return to gold-payments, without any reduction of the interest of the Debt; that, in the fall of that same year I, in a Letter to TIERNEY, warned them of the terrible danger of following TIERNEY's advice, and, after *proving* to them how injurious that advice, if followed, must be to the country, *besought* them not to follow it; that this was *quite enough* to make them follow TIERNEY's advice, which they did immediately afterwards, in adopting the measure, called PEEL's BILL; that, as soon as that bill was passed, I *besought* them to reduce the taxes so as to prevent the ruin that the bill must otherwise produce; and, at the same time I assured them, that they should have leave to broil me on a gridiron if they (without a great reduction of taxes) ever carried Peel's Bill into full effect; that, here again was *quite enough* to make them persevere in the bill, which they did, *adding to the taxes*, at the same time, instead of reducing them, until, in July 1822, the country was on the eve of absolute convulsion; that then they gave way, *partly repealed* Peel's Bill, but, in opposition to my advice, refused to listen to the prayer of the KENTISH PETITION,

filled the country with paper-money, and, which ought never to be forgotten, boasted, almost in so many words, that their wise parliament had proved my predictions to be false; that I instantly answered this boast by foretelling, that their *country-banks would soon blow up*, and that they themselves, if they did not take care, would be blown to the devil; that they laughed at my prediction, but that, in fifteen months from the date of that prediction, panic seized the system, the banks blew up, and these men themselves confessed that they had brought us to within *forty-eight hours of barter*; that this was pretty good revenge on these presumptuous, contumelious, arrogant, and insolent men, and by no means a too heavy punishment for a people. the then greater part of the rich amongst whom had, whether by words, deeds, or wishes, *sided with these empty and insolent men against me*; that in their fright of 1826, they passed the *present law*, which, on the 5th of next April, puts an end to all notes under five pounds, and that they, at the same time, declared they would not reduce the interest of the Debt, and that they would keep up a thundering standing army in time of peace; that I, while they were passing this bill, humbly presented a *petition*, imploring them not to think of enforcing this new law without taking off one half of the taxes: for that, if they did, the most dreadful public calamities would ensue; that, of course, *this was again enough*, the law appears to be intended to be enforced, the taxes have not been reduced, and the calamities are come and are coming in numbers, in magnitude, and in form that seem to astound all beholders.

It has been sometimes asked *why* these men in power, and in Parliament too (for, with very few exceptions, all have acted alike in this respect), should have this anxious, and, apparently, unnatural, desire to do nothing that might rebound to *my credit*, even though for their own evident ease and advantage; and this is a question by no means impertinent, especially as we see them frequently enough acknowledging in the *most candid manner*, their great obligations to *other writers*; see their frequent

practice of bestowing rewards and what they call honours on such writers; nay, we have seen them, in some cases, admit them to a *participation in power*. The answer to this question is this:—that they never thus acted towards any man who did not approach them as an *underling* and a *tool*, who was not mean enough to abandon the assertion of his own *superiority over them*, who was not so base as always to speak of himself as *inferior* to men whom he knew to be poor creatures compared with himself. When they have found, as they sometimes have, men of great talent unable thus to bend to baseness, they have used towards them all the arts of *destroying*, in which, sooner or later, they have generally succeeded. Unable to make me bend, they have used all these arts towards me; but they have in this case, used them in vain; and, in every instance, it has, unluckily for them, happened, that I put myself *openly at issue with them* upon one great and all-important question, a question which involved national salvation or national ruin, and which question a reasonable time was *sure to determine*.

That the facts stated in the last paragraph but one, are truths, is asserted, not by me only, but by hundreds of thousands of men; and, indeed, they are as well known as it is known that this country is called England. Here we are, then, now waiting to see *whether you will follow the example of your half-score of predecessors*; whether, to all my former triumphs, I be to add a triumph over you. I tell you distinctly, that you cannot carry the present law into effect without a great reduction of taxes, or, without plunging the country into a state of almost immediate commotion; I tell you, that you, *without such reduction*, or without a commotion a little more distant, or without Bank-restriction, cannot repeal the present law; I tell you, that you cannot make a Bank-restriction (without such reduction), without causing a commotion not much more distant; and, finally, I tell you, that there is no remedy, no means of preventing a final and terrible commotion, except that remedy which is stated and prayed for in the petitions of the

sensible and spirited Counties of KENT and of NORFOLK, of the last of which petitions (which is more ample than the former) I, for my part, will never give up one single point.

So that, unless you act upon my advice, and I have no reason to think you will, here I am at issue with YOU; and, please to observe, that the trial is going on, *time* must speedily give its verdict, and that verdict will infallibly be in my favour. LORD GRENVILLE has put forth a pamphlet, in order to show, that a *sinking fund* is useless! He has made this discovery *rather late!* I have shown this famous "*statesman*" up; but, you ought to know, that the *uselessness* of such a "*fund*" is PROVED in this work, proved beyond all contradiction, and in a manner so clear, that no man but a stark fool, could, if he read the book, fail to be convinced, eighteen years ago, of the *uselessness* of the thing called the *Sinking Fund*. Notwithstanding this, the false and coolly impudent Scotch *seelosophers* pretend that the discovery was made, about eight years ago, by a "*DOCTOR HAMILTON*;" and, a brother "*Doctor*" of his, in London, observed in print, about four years ago, that it was very *odd*, that *no one* ever even *suspected* the inefficacy of the *Sinking Fund until Doctor Hamilton wrote on the subject!*" False loons! Mr. PAINE said, *forty years ago*, that it was like a man with a wooden leg running after a hare: I *proved* the inefficacy in 1803; but in this work, *eighteen years ago*, the proof was made demonstration. This is on the part of the Scotch, just such another trick as they attempted to play in the case of the "*INVINCIBLE STANDARD*," which they claimed the honour of having taken, but which I proved to have been taken by a FRENCHMAN!

To conclude, I do my duty in here tendering you a book that will, if you will attend to it, teach you what to do; and, if you reject its teachings, this Dedication will always be at hand to be produced, when the consequences of such rejection shall have led to the dreadful, but perfectly natural, catastrophe. Remember, that, during all the years of this struggle between me and

the men in power, my candle has not been kept under a bushel (whether Winchester or "*Imperial*"); for that, besides my weekly admonitions, more, perhaps, than *a hundred thousand copies* of this one book have been printed and sold; so that we exhibit to the world this singular spectacle: a common people thoroughly enlightened by their reading; and an aristocracy, a legislature and a ministry resolved not to read, or, to read for no other purpose than that of ascertaining how to shun the light emanating from my pen. Time and Truth have, however, no respect to persons; their decision will be impartial, and that decision is looked forward to, not only with perfect confidence, but with the most cordial delight, by WM. COBBETT.

NOBLE NONSENSE;

OR,

COBBETT'S EXHIBITION

Of the stupid and insolent Pamphlet

OF

LORD GRENVILLE.

"Now, '*Noble Lord*,' we have thee on the hip."

AGREEABLY to my intention expressed in the last Register, I have published this in a pamphlet, price *twopence*, or *eighteen pence* a dozen. The pamphlets may be had at Fleet-street, or may be ordered there, or from any of the booksellers in London, to be sent to the country.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

DOCTORUM
DOCTORIBUS DOCTISSIMIS.

DESIDERATUM.

Opus est Universitati *Scoticae - Londinensi*, ad Sedem Professoriam implendam, vir aliquis versatissimus in scientiâ SUÛM EXSECANDORUM; quâ scilicet scientiâ nihil magis in hac nostrâ regione ad redundantiam populi quâ nunc Anglia laborat minuendam, à philosophis horum temporum eruditissimis valere contenditur.

N.B. Cum exemplorum vis præceptis utcumque elaboratis apud maximam partem hominum præponderet, nolumus ullum hominem ad obeundum hoc munus honorificentissimum petitem sese profiteri, nisi cui jam sit *experientiâ* cognitum, quanta sit in doctrinâ hujus fructibus utilitas!

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